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Message Text

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21
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /062 W
---------- 016702
R 070940Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3883
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14289

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA
SUBJ: JSP VISIT TO WASHINGTON
REFS: A) DOD 262042Z SEP 75; B) STATE 232849(302136Z SEP)

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE EDA MISSION HAS NOT YET RETURNED HOME, THEIR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND WHAT THE JAPANESE REGARD AS AN UNEXPECTEDLY WARM US RECEPTION HAS BEEN WIDELY NOTED AND WELCOMED HERE. ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT PORTEND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE JSP'S FAMILIAR FOLICY LINE, THE "SUCCESSFUL" VISIT WILL OPEN UP CHANNELS FOR USG COMMUNICATION WITH THE JSP WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR YEARS -- AND THAT IS ALL TO THE GOOD. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER AN UNEASY START, REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT THE JSP VISIT HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS AND GLOWING. INITIALLY THERE WERE RELATIVELY STRAIGHT FORWARD REPORTS ON THE MEETINGS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. THESE WERE SOON SUPPLANTED, HOWEVER, BY INCREASINGLY GLOWING ACCOUNTS --MANY OF THEM WRITTEN BY EDA HIMSELF OR KAWAKAMI-- OF THE CORDIAL RECEPTION ACCORDED THE MISSION IN WASHINGTON NOT ONLY BY GOVERNMENT
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OFFICIALS, BUT ON THE HILL, AT THE WASHINGTON POST, AND AMONG JOUR-

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NALISTS AND ACADEMICS GENERALLY. THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL ASSI-
STANT RUMSFELD, SO SOON AFTER THE JSP REJECTED A MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT, APPARENTLY DEEPLY IMPRESSED THE GROUP AS AN EXAMPLE OF
A GENEROUS ANDFORGIVING SPIRIT. THE PRESS ALSO WIDELY REPORTED THAT
EDA APOLOGIZED TO RUMSFELD FOR THE JSP'S BOYCOTT OF THE PRESIDEN-
TIAL VISIT.

2. IN ADDITION TO GIVING THESE REPORTS EXTRAORDINARILY PROMINENT
PLAY, THE PRESS FOLLOWED UP WITH A ROUND OF EDITORIALS, AN UNUSUAL
STEP BEFORE THE RETURN OF A GROUP SUCH AS THIS. IN GENERAL, THE
EDITORIALS REGRETTED THE LONG ABSENCE OF HIGH LEVEL CONTRACT BE-
TWEEN THE JSP AND THE UNITED STATES, TENDED TO BLAME BOTH SIDES
ABOUT EQUALLY FOR THE LAPSE, WARMLY WELCOMED THE FAVORABLE RECEP-
TION ACCORDED THE JSP MISSION IN THE US, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
IT MIGHT ENCOURAGE GREATER JSP FLEXIBILITY IN ITS US POLICIES. MOST
CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, BY WONDERING ALOUD ABOUT THE PROBABLE IMPACT OF
THE EDA MISSION ON THE LEFT-LEANING JSP AS A WHOLE.

3. THE MISSION IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO JAPAN ON OCTOBER 8. THERE
IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE A TRADITIONAL ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE, AN-
OTHER ROUND OF ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY AT THAT TIME.

4. COMMENT: THE JSP VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, THE FIRST IN 18
YEARS, HAS RECEIVED EXTRAORDINARY ATTENTION AND APPROBATION NOT
ONLY FROM THE MEDIA, BUT FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF POLITICIANS, BURE-
AUCRATS, LABOR LEADERS, BUSINESSMEN AND ACADEMICS OF ALL STRIPES.
IN PART THIS REACTION WAS PROMPTED BY THE PARTY DECISION TO END THE
LONG HIATUS IN US-JSP CONTACTS AND IN PART BY THE RETURN OF SABURO
EDA TO THE LIMELIGHT AFTER MANY YEARS IN THE WINGS. MORE IMPORT-
ANTLY, BROAD JAPANESE APPROVAL APPEARS TO STEM FROM LONGSTANDING
CONCERN THAT JAPAN'S LEADING OPPOSITION PARTY CONTINUES TO BE
GUIDED IN THE MAIN BY DOCTRINAIRE LEFTISTS AND, IN PERIOD OF DETENTE
WHEN US, SOVIET AND CHINESE LEADERS ARE IN REGULAR COMMUNICATION
WITH EACH OTHER, THE JSP APPEARS UNABLE TO CONDUCT RESPONSIBLE DIA-
LOGUE WITH US. MEDIA GOES ON TO POINT OUT THAT ANY JAPANESE POLI-
TICAL REALISM AND RESPONSIBILITY NECESSARY TO RULE. BY REESTAB-
LISHING FORMAL COMMUNICATION WITH THE US, MANY HERE BELIEVE THE JSP
HAS TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD POLITICAL MATURITY AND OPENED UP
THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVEMENT AWAY FROM ITS CHARACTERISTIC OPPOSITION
TO ANY AND ALL AMERICAN POLICY. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL WAIT AND SEE.
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WE AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT MISSION'S US VISIT HAS BEEN A LARGE PLUS
IN TERMS OF HIGHLIGHTING IMAGE OF US AS WILLING AND ABLE TO CONDUCT
DIALOGUE WITH THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH USG AND ALSO IN GETTING US
VIEWS ACROSS TO HITHERTO DIFFICULT TO REACH JSP LEADERSHIP.

5. BEFORE SETTING OUT, THE MISSION MEMBERS WERE VERY CONSCIOUS OF
THE RISKS THEY WERE TAKING IN GOING TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT FIRM AP-
POINTMENTS, ESPECIALLY AFTER AN 18 YEAR VACUUM AND ON THE HEELS OF

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RECENT JSP ACTIONS CRITICAL OF THE US. THEIR PLEASURE AND GRATITUDE, THEREFORE, APPEARS ALL THE GREATER.THEIR OWN DEFINITION OF "SUCCESS" WAS TO OPEN THE WAY FOR FURTHER COMMUNICATION. THEY HAVE CERTAINLY DONE THAT AND MORE -- THANKS TO MUCH HARD WORK IN WASHINGTON. THEIR "SUCCESS" ALSO OPENS UP AVENUES FOR USG CONTACT WIH THE JSP WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR YEARS.
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